



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,916	09/22/2003	Koichiro Tanaka	0756-7197	5108
31780	7590	03/17/2006	EXAMINER	
ERIC ROBINSON PMB 955 21010 SOUTHBANK ST. POTOMAC FALLS, VA 20165			KUNEMUND, ROBERT M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			1722	

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/664,916	TANAKA, KOICHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert M. Kunemund	1722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 to 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (6,393,042) in view of Okamoto et al (EP 1,063,049).

The Tanaka reference teaches a method and apparatus for laser scanning amorphous semiconducting material, note entire reference. The laser scanner comprises a laser source such a YAG or Ar laser. The beam travels through a homogenizer to create a linear beam, note figure 1. The beam then hits the amorphous materials, which is on a movable stage. The laser can be an eximer laser. The beam crystallizes the amorphous material such as silicon, note examples. The sole difference between the instant claims and the prior art is the reflective surfaces facing each other. However, the Okamoto et al reference teaches a laser scanning apparatus and method where the beam is treated by passing through two facing reflective surfaces, note pages 5. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Tanaka reference by the teachings of the Okamoto et al reference to use the reflective surfaces in order to increase the performance of the laser decreasing scanning times.

Claims 5 to 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (6,393,042) in view of Okamoto et al (EP 1,063,049) and Yamazaki et al (6,437,313).

The Tanaka and Okamoto et al references are relied on for the same reasons as stated, *supra*, and differ from the instant claims in the cylindrical lens. However, the Yamazaki et al reference teaches an apparatus and method for laser scanning an amorphous material where the beam travels through a cylindrical lens while being treated prior to scanning the material, note col. 5. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Tanaka and Okamoto et al references by the teachings of the Yamazaki et al reference to use a cylindrical lens in order to optimumize the laser shape and intensity.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed January 6, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants' argument concerning the beam homogenizer is noted. However, the Tanaka et al reference in the examples merely teaches a beam homogenizer for a linearly shaped laser beam. There is no limitation as to what is being smooth or shaped. The reference does teach also a line beam as is now claimed.

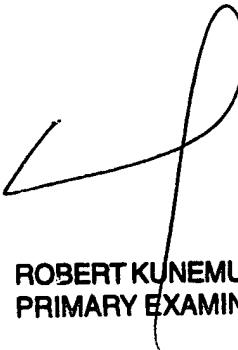
The combination of references does in fact teach the entirely claimed invention as set forth in the above rejections.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Kunemund whose telephone number is 571-272-1464. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RMK



ROBERT KUNEMUND
PRIMARY EXAMINER